

|   |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| <b>INFORMATION<br/>DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT</b> | Application #  | 10/541,203     |
|   | Confirmation # | 7648           |
|   | Filing Date    | July 5, 2005   |
|   | First Inventor | NIM            |
|   | Art Unit       |                |
|   | Examiner       |                |
|   | Docket #       | P08698US00/DEJ |

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

**This IDS is submitted herewith pursuant to 37 CFR. §1.97-1.98 and includes the following:**

- ☒ A **listing** of the references on PTO-1449.
- ☐ A copy of all **non-US** references which are listed on the PTO-1449 (US refs not required).
- ☒ A copy of a corresponding foreign **Search Report** which explains the relevance of the references noted therein.
- ☒ It will be noted that DE 100 34 847 mentioned in the specification is equivalent to EP 1174336; and that WO 01/73292 mentioned in the specification is equivalent to USPA 2004/0103655.

**Please note the following particulars concerning the filing of this IDS:**

- ☒ 1. This IDS is filed at whichever is the latest of:
  - within three months of the filing date of a NATIONAL APPLICATION other than a CPA, or
  - within three months of the date of entry into the NATIONAL STAGE as set forth in 37 CFR. §1.491 in an international application, or
  - before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or
  - before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE.
- ☐ 2. This IDS is filed **after a first Office Action**, but before a Final Action, Allowance, or any other action which closes prosecution, **and**:
  - ☐ A. Is accompanied by a payment in the amount of \$180.00 required by 37 CFR. §1.17(p).

or

  - ☐ B. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.
  - ☐ C. I hereby state that no item of information in this IDS herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR. §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this IDS.
  - ☐ D. An appropriate Statement is attached.

☐ 3. This IDS is filed **after** a final action or allowance, but on/before payment of the issue fee, **and:**

☐ A. is accompanied by a payment in the amount of \$180.00 required by 37 CFR. §1.17(p).

**and**

☐ B. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

☐ C. I hereby state that no item of information in this IDS herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR. §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this IDS.

☐ D. An appropriate Statement is attached.

☐ 4. This IDS does not comply with 37 CFR 1.97-1.98, and is being filed **for placement in the file** pursuant to 37 CFR. §1.97(i). .

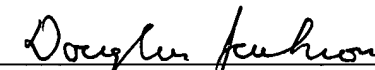
☒ 5. It will also be appreciated that:

- a. It is believed that this IDS complies fully with 37 CFR 1.56 and 1.97-98 and with MPEP § 609; but if for some reason it does not and will not be entered, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned so that any deficiency can be timely remedied.
- b. Some of the documents may have markings thereon, but no significance should be attached to those markings.
- c. These documents are not necessarily analogous art.
- d. Where an English language translation of an abstract is provided from a public source, applicant cannot vouch for the accuracy of that translation.

☒ 6. If no payment is enclosed and a fee is due in connection with this communication or if the payment enclosed is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or additional fee due with this communication to Deposit Account No. 12-0555.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 13, 2005



By: Douglas E. Jackson

Registration No.: 28,518

**STITES & HARBISON PLLC** ♦ 1199 North Fairfax St. ♦ Suite 900 ♦ Alexandria, VA 22314

TEL: 703-739-4900 ♦ FAX: 703-739-9577 ♦ CUSTOMER NO. 00881

|   |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> | Application #  | 10/541,203     |
|   | Confirmation # | 7648           |
|   | Filing Date    | July 5, 2005   |
|   | First Inventor | NIM            |
|   | Art Unit       |                |
|   | Examiner       |                |
| Sheet <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>  | Docket #       | P08698US00/DEJ |

| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b> |                            |                       |                            |                          |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Exam. Initial*               | Document No. Number - Kind | Publ. Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name Patentee or Applicant | Relevance Passages/Figs. |
|                              | US-2004/0103655            | 06/03/2004            | Lauritsen                  |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |
|                              | US-                        |                       |                            |                          |

| <b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b> |                     |                       |                                    |                          |             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Exam. Initial*                  | Country-Number-Kind | Publ. Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name Patentee or Applicant         | Relevance Passages/Figs. | Translation |
|                                 | EP 1 174 336 A1     | 01/23/2002            | Maierform Maritime Technology GmbH |                          |             |
|                                 | DE 101 01 405 A1    | 07/18/2002            | Briese, Remmer                     |                          |             |
|                                 | GB 2 378 679 A      | 02/19/2003            | Ocean Synergy, Ltd.                |                          |             |
|                                 | JP 2001-248535      | 09/14/2001            | Kajima Corp.                       |                          |             |
|                                 |                     |                       |                                    |                          |             |
|                                 |                     |                       |                                    |                          |             |

| <b>NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS</b> |  |             |
|--|--|-------------|
| Exam. Initial*                         | Include NAME of the author (in CAPS), Title of Article/Item, Date, Page(s), Volume-Issue No., Publisher, City and/or Country where published | Translation |
|  |  |             |
|  |  |             |
|  |  |             |

|                    |  |                 |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

\* Examiner: Initial if considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.